

50X1-HUM

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THIS IS UNEVALUATED INFORMATION

DISCUSSES PROBLEMS OF UNCULTIVATED FARM LAND IN HUPEH

Reasons for the land being left uncultivated include the following: Some landlords fled, others, anticipating the confiscation of their land under the land reform, abandoned it; rich peasants ceased cultivating excess land to avoid being classed as landlords; poor peasants lacked manpower or work animals.

Why Cultivation Was Abandoned

1. The landlords, anticipating the coming land reform and fearing confiscation of lands and crops, let farms go without cultivation.

2. Some landlords have fled their farms, leaving them unattended. The peasants who formerly cultivated them fear the responsibility of paying taxes for the landlord and avoid cultivation.

3. Rich and middle-class peasants left some of their excess lands uncultivated to avoid being classed in a higher bracket under the land-reform program.

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4. The poor peasants lacked the necessary manpower, as well as oxen, to cultivate some of their land.

In the areas which have undergone land reform, there are two reasons for land being left uncultivated. The landlords do not have the labor to cultivate the land which has been allotted to them for their livelihood. Because of inequity in some cases, poor peasants were given unproductive land which they though useless for cultivation.

Solution of the Problem

After surveying the conditions, the local committee of the Hung-hu Hsien Communist Party proposed five resolutions to deal with the problems.

1. Sound propaganda techniques should be employed to make clear to the people the ideas of the harvest belonging to the cultivators, of freedom of hiring and borrowing, of protection of the rich peasants, and of safe-guarding the productive ability of various classes. In the rent-reduction movement any hardships to the middle-class peasants will be corrected.

2. Strict supervision of the landlords to force them to reform and cultivate their own land should be maintained. All their earnings must be protected.

3. The peasants should be organized to promote the rent-reduction and land-reform programs. The present struggle for land reform should be brought to a swift conclusion. Goods should be rushed to the peasants in areas where shortage of consumers' goods exist.

4. Land belonging to the landlords who fled should be assigned to the previous cultivator for continued cultivation. If the former cultivator declines, the local government or peasant association should find others to cultivate it.

5. In inequity cases, where the poor peasants were given inferior or unproductive land under the land-reform program, the peasants should be urged to cultivate the land and make their protest after the autumn harvest.

[Comment by the editor of Ch'ang-chiang Jih-pao]: The above reveals the seriousness of the uncultivated land problem. It shows that the cadres in charge have not made effective agricultural production propaganda among the people. They have not succeeded in reforming the landlords into producing. I suggest that all leadership organizations and agricultural work cadres in other areas immediately survey their respective zones regarding the problems of uncultivated land. After that, appropriate corrective actions should be taken.

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